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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 249, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4           "§249-           Exemptions for certain cars; disabled veterans.

5 Any totally and permanently disabled veteran who is:

6           (1) A resident of Hawaii;

7           (2) Other than dishonorably discharged from the United  
8           States uniformed armed forces;

9           (3) Determined by the United States Department of Veterans  
10           Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected  
11           one hundred per cent disability rating for  
12           compensation or a service-connected disability rating  
13           of one hundred per cent; and

14           (4) In receipt of disability retirement pay from any  
15           branch of the uniformed armed forces;

16 shall not be required to pay any motor vehicle registration fees  
17 as required by section 249-31. This exemption shall not extend



1 to vehicles used for commercial purposes, nor to more than one  
2 vehicle of the disabled veteran."

3 SECTION 2. Section 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) All vehicles and motor vehicles in the State as  
6 defined in section 249-1, including antique motor vehicles,  
7 except as otherwise provided in sections 249-4 [~~and~~], 249-6, and  
8 249- , shall be subject to a \$45 annual vehicle registration  
9 fee. The fee shall be paid each year together with all other  
10 taxes and fees levied by this chapter on a staggered basis as  
11 established by each county as authorized by section 286-51, and  
12 the state registration for that county shall likewise be  
13 staggered so that the state registration fee is due and payable  
14 at the same time and shall be collected together with the county  
15 fee. The state registration fee shall be deemed delinquent if  
16 not paid with the county registration fee. The respective  
17 counties shall collect this fee together with the vehicle  
18 registration tax collected for the county and shall transfer the  
19 moneys collected under this section to the State."



1           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicle Registration Fee; Veterans; Exemption

**Description:**

Exempts certain totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying the State motor vehicle registration fee. (HB170 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BIL 170, HD1, (HSCR46) RELATING TO VETERANS  
PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN  
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 13, 2013

Chair Yamane and Vice Chair Ichiyama and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in House Bill 170, HD1, (HSCR46).

This measure would exempt certain total and permanently disabled veterans from paying any motor vehicle registration expenses. People who qualify must be a resident of Hawaii and be a 100% disabled veteran as determined by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) or its predecessor and in receipt of disability retirement pay. These individuals shall not be required to pay any motor vehicle registration expenses.

I believe that this proposed bill gives back to those who have served valiantly in uniform in support and in sacrifice to our country. The freedoms we enjoy today and been paved by their dedicated and honored service.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of HB 170, HD1, (HSCR46).

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES  
**CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE, LICENSING AND PERMITS  
ADMINISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 30300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0300

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



SHERI T. KAJIWARA  
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

DENNIS A. KAMIMURA  
LICENSING ADMINISTRATOR

February 9, 2013

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Transportation  
State House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
514 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

Subject: H.B. No. 170 H.D.1, Relating to Veterans

The City and County of Honolulu has no objections to H.B. No. 170 H.D.1 which would allow an exemption from the State Registration Fee for certain totally and permanently disabled veterans.

Since programming changes would be necessary to implement this bill, we recommend that the effective date of the bill be amended to November 1, 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Kamimura".

Dennis A. Kamimura  
Licensing Administrator



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185

**Testimony of  
Thomas Smyth  
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Chapter  
Before the  
Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 10:00 am, Room 309  
HB 170 Relating to Veterans**

**Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Committee Members**

**Our chapter of 500 retired and currently serving officers of the Uniformed Services strongly supports HB 170, which provides a specific vehicular tax for an honorably discharged armed services veteran who is a Hawaii resident and is permanently totally disabled.**

**We note that it is likely that such a veteran would have a relatively heavy vehicle to accommodate his or her disability, so this tax structure is especially important to those who have given us so much of themselves.**

**We understand that those charged with issuing state vehicle tax bills understand how the veteran's disability system works and can accommodate this added tax variation.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES  
Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)  
1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu HI 96818  
Naushawaii1@yahoo.com; 808-382-5833**

February 11, 2013

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 170 HD1  
RELATING TO VETERANS**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00 AM,  
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

Aloha Chair Yamani and Vice Chair Ichiyama: Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 170 HD1. The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is honored to be recognized as “The Service Member’s Voice in Government.” Here, in the great State of Hawaii, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) serves at the pleasure of our nation’s largest per-capita uniformed service community.

NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) is grateful your efforts to exempt certain totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying the State motor vehicle registration fee.

Amending Chapter 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes to provide this preference is extremely important to our totally and permanently disabled Veterans and their families; they served our great nation so selflessly.

NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) respectfully urges your committee to consider passing House Bill 170 HD1 as written.

*D Egge*

Dennis Egge; Chapter President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

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[www.oahuveternascenter.com](http://www.oahuveternascenter.com)



# TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLE, Exempt motor vehicle registration for disabled veterans

BILL NUMBER: HB 170, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 249 to provide that any totally and permanently disabled veteran who is: (1) a resident of Hawaii; (2) other than dishonorably discharged from the U.S. uniformed armed forces; (3) determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected 100% disability rating for compensation or a service-connected disability rating of 100%; and (4) in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the uniformed armed forces, shall not be required to pay any state motor vehicle registration fees provided the exemption shall not extend to vehicles used for commercial purposes, nor to more than one vehicle of the disabled veteran.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure proposes to exempt one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by disabled veterans who are residents of the state from the state motor vehicle registration fee. The legislature by Act 141, SLH 2008, exempted from the motor vehicle weight taxes, one noncommercial motor vehicle owned by members of the national guard, reserves, active duty armed services, including the coast guard, who are residents of Hawaii.

Inasmuch as the motor vehicle weight tax and registration fees are user charges designed to recover the cost of construction and maintenance of Hawaii's highway system, there is little justification for the proposed exemption. It should be remembered that all motorists use the state highways and should, therefore, lend a hand in paying for good and safe roads. Note well, that any exemption granted to a select group of users requires that the lost revenues be made up by those who must continue to pay. Motorists who will have to pick up the additional costs created by this proposed exemption should hold those who would propose such an exemption responsible for raising their taxes.

Exemptions based solely on physical condition or age have no place in the tax law and represents poor tax policy. So while the exemption would provide relief to a disabled veteran, a single mom making minimum wage, barely making ends meet, must continue to pay these fees. As such, this proposal cannot be justified. Given that this proposal has been continually introduced, it is hard to imagine that lawmakers have not asked the question as to why they believe that a disabled veteran is financially incapable of paying his or her fair share to maintain the state's highways?

Digested 2/11/13

**ichiyama1 - Tate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 09, 2013 9:24 PM  
**To:** TRNtestimony  
**Cc:** vixen.hawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB170 on Feb 13, 2013 10:00AM\*

**HB170**

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for TRN on Feb 13, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Hijirida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE BUTAY  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
RANDY GRUNE  
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
(808) 586-2165

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 13, 2013  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309

H.B. 170, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO VETERANS



House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates veterans and respectfully recognizes the merits to reward their sacrifices for duty, honor and country with lower fees and charges.

However, the DOT **opposes** HB 170 HD1 because it would have an adverse impact on fees that support the operations, maintenance, and construction of our highways.

This lower fee for the state motor vehicle registration fee will reduce the revenues deposited into the State Highway Fund. The state vehicle registration fees accounted for 14.6 percent of the total State Highway Fund Revenues for fiscal year 2012 and are estimated to make up 16.7 percent for fiscal year 2014. Any proposed decrease would have a negative impact on the health of the State Highway Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

